

# INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS CONFIRMED



**PAMELA SUNEE b.1978**  
**(Mauritius)**

Pamela exhibited at the last Seychelles Biennale in 2017 and we are delighted to welcome her back. She will be constructing a site-specific installation in response to the theme at Kenwyn House. In her proposal the artist stated that she intends to explore one particular concept through her work – that life's mishaps can change the identity of a person but it takes time to recover what has been lost in the process.

Since the last Byenal Sesel Pamela Sunee has exhibited at the Salon d'ete (2017), the Salon de Mai (2018 and 2019) and participated in the 2019 international workshop pARTage – 'Raz de maree'.



**YOKO ONO b.1933**  
**(America/Japan)**

Yoko Ono is one of the foremost multimedia artists of her generation. She has worked at the cutting edge of performance and installation work since 1961 and has been a leading activist for peace and human rights. We are very pleased that she has agreed to exhibit one of her video art works – 'ONOCHORD' at the Seychelles Biennale



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**MARIA WOLFRAM b.1961  
(Finland)**

A painter and installation artist, Maria Wolfram will be exhibiting her installation 'Walk With Me' at the Eden Art Space Gallery. The installation will invite viewers to step into a labyrinth of giant painted monolithic figures and to become engaged in conversation – looking at the work but also looking for something which has been previously lost. In so doing there will be the opportunity to open connections with something previously familiar or unfamiliar.

Maria Wolfram's recent exhibitions include the ARS Gallery, Tokyo and Kulttuuritalo Laikku and Galleria Pirkko-Liisa Topelius – both in the artist's native Finland. She has also participated in the ECC's Personal Structures group show, linked with the 2019 Venice Biennale, and World Art Tokyo, Japan.



**CHRISTINE KASTNER b. 1952  
(Austria)**

Christine Kastner is a visual artist mostly working with the panArt technique, a school of creativity developed by Matthias Baumgartner, under who Christine Kastner studied. It is an umbrella term for little-known and practised painting techniques such as Panmode and Pan-graphic. The artist creates works which have been described as 'pure light and colour, sometimes explosive as a volcanic eruption, then gentle as the heart-warming night.'

She will show works from the 'Hommage an Kasimir Malewitsch' series at the Byenal Sesel in which she explores 'new form and synergies through swinging, playful brushstrokes'.

Previous exhibitions include Schloss Walpersdorf, 'Art Tower' (Berlin) and 'Woman art motion'. Cbck gallery, Stein.

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**DANIELLE FREAKLEY** b. 1982  
(Australia/Seychelles)

Danielle exhibited at the last Byenal Sesel.

Danielle Freakley is a Seychellois-Australian artist mostly working in performance, social practice, interactive systems and sculpture. People can often accidentally collaborate with her, just through bumping into her. Her works can distort social communication and relationships, exposing lurking historical and private subtexts in day to day life... sometimes with unconscious linguistic cartography.

She has exhibited at Tate - Liverpool Biennial, Museum of Contemporary Art - Sydney, Performa - Performance Biennial of New York and in various other biennials, triennials, national galleries, state galleries, contemporary art spaces, kitchen floors, snake temples, theme parks, clothes, bins, beaches, train station toilets and graves.

The artist intends to create a piece called 'Your Second Hand' which will be installed in the Eden Art Space Gallery. Clothing will be hung in an enclosed, cupboard-like space, each containing an omen about the previous owner/wearer. People may take one item of clothing.



**KAVINASH THOMOO** b.1983  
(Mauritius)

Kavinash has participated in over 50 exhibitions, as far afield as England, Reunion, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Ivory Coast. He was also here with us at the last, 2017, Byenal Sesel. He also exhibited at the 2015 Venice Biennale.

His practice extends across traditional media into installation and video and his research and experimentation interests revolve around themes such as social activism and auto-destructive art, taking inspiration from psychology, socio-political issues and self reflection.

The artist is preparing an installation entitled 'Can you hear me?' for the Seychelles Biennale. The artist describes his concept as 'an ode to grass roots voices, across history, that have arisen and most often have become lost due to public apathy as well as suppression by politically ambitious and profit-making agendas'. His installation will 'foreshadow an apocalyptic world where resources have been drained to capacity ; a world where our romanticised, packaged, and consumerist relationship with nature is a pretense which has fallen apart.'

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**KHULEKANI MSWELL b. 1984  
(Eswatini)**

An artist, designer and social entrepreneur from Eswatini, Khulekani is proposing an 'interlocking bricks' installation inside Kenwyn House, Mahe. Objects created from paper pulp, soil, grass and natural pigments will be suspended at eye level. The piece will reflect on the Byenal theme through reference to the artist's loss of his rural home town on Vuvulane when he moved away to work and study and the subsequent rediscovery of his roots through his work establishing low cost eco housing within the Vuvulane community.

The design of his installation will directly reflect the process of revitalising the artist's home community.

The artist has exhibited in South Africa, USA, Belgium, Finland and Italy as well as extensively within his home country of Eswatini.



**LEONORA VEKIC b. 1970  
(Serbia)**

Leonora Vekic graduated from the Faculty of Applied Arts in Belgrade at the Textile Design Department in 1995. She took her master's degree in Tapestry in 2000. She became a teaching assistant in Tapestry and Textile Techniques at the Faculty of Applied Arts in 2005, and an assistant professor in 2012. Leonora Vekic is active in the areas of textile art, fashion and other visual arts. She is a member of Association of Applied Arts Artists and Designers of Serbia (ULUPUDS).

Present on the art scene since 1996, Leonora has participated in a number of group and solo exhibitions, colonies and various related contemporary art projects in Serbia and abroad. She is the winner of awards and recognitions including: 22nd Biennial of Tapestries Plaque for the work Modulor, 22. ULUPUDS Tapestry Biennial, 2016; 46th ULUPUDS Grand Prix, May Exhibition, 2014; Museum of Applied Arts in Belgrade Prize, 2010; Textile Sections and Modern Clothing of ULUPUDS Plaque for creative results in 2011, 2010 and 2009; First prize of ULUPUDS at the Biennial Tapestry, Belgrade, 2010; Biennial Tapestry Plaque, ULUPUDS Belgrade, 2000 and others.

Her works are held by many public and private collections.

The artist will exhibit two installation pieces at the Seychelles Biennale.



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**HELENIS HOIM** b. 1987  
(Estonia)

Helenis has visited the Indian Ocean region before, participating in the 2019 pARTage residency, 'Critical Zone' in Mauritius. She has exhibited solo shows in her home country and also participated in numerous group expositions, having originally trained at the Estonian Academy of Arts.

The artist's main inspiration comes from natural forms and she describes herself as a multi media installation artist using sound, video and light alongside more traditional fine art media.

Helenis Hoim intends to present a new painting series called 'Energy Sessions'. This collection includes 4 oil paintings, each 1200x1200mm, and presents concepts relating to unseen energy movements through air, earth, water, objects etc. – the ongoing changes in energy circles.



**KWAMI DA COSTA** b. 1980  
(Togo)

Kwami Da Costa is a multi-disciplinary artist who has exhibited in Mali, Ivory Coast and Senegal most recently, alongside his native Togo.

His artistic approach revolves around questions of the family bond as a vector of attachment and the fight against isolation, exclusion and vulnerability. The artist currently lives and works in Yenne on the Senegalise coast.

His Seychelles exhibition will examine the theme of deconstruction and reconstruction – which relates comfortably with the overall Biennale theme. The work will examine the place of family, forced marriage, the importance of spirituality and the manner in which the modern marriage has developed and changed the social context within which it operates.

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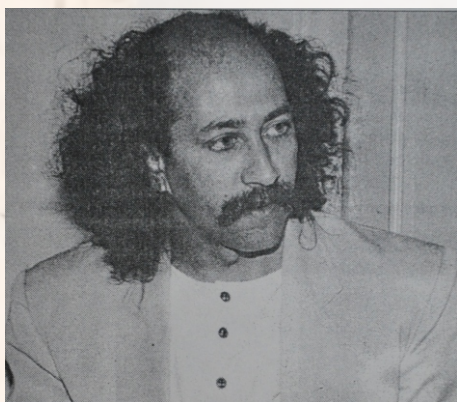


AVILLA DAMAR b. 1984  
(Mauritius)

A master of Visual Arts, majoring in painting, Avilla Damar has exhibited extensively in Mauritius and India. She identifies her art work as a social responsibility, creating thought-provoking expositions which often adopt a Marxist approach and a Duchampian style. Her art can be interpreted as 'protest' in concept and content and the artist states that 'gone are the times when I painted beauty, fantasies or the pleasurable'.

She has had her fill of society's chores and judgements and they now fuel an anger which she fiercely translates into visual language, questioning political decisions and offering a subaltern voice.

The artist intends to create a new work – 'Bleeding Shores 2.1' in the Eden Art Space Gallery, a combination of painting, ready-mades and the artist's signature piggy banks. The work will address concerns about the privatisation of public beaches in Mauritius.



JAMES CASTEL b. 1958  
(Mauritius)

James Castel is a veteran of Seychelles expositions, having exhibited here in the 1995 edition of 'Festival Kreol'. He also exhibited here in 2011.

For the 2020 edition of the Byenal Sesel the artist intends to create one piece of wooden sculpture which charts the period of food scarcity in Rodrigues island and the later period of abundance – particularly with regards to a growing octopus population. The work will also reference the political decisions which tackled issues of over-fishing and the return of a stable and sustainable catch.

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**SUE KNEEBONE**  
(Australia)

Sue Kneebone has a PhD in visual arts from the University of South Australia and a Masters in Fine Art from the Victorian College of the Arts. She has been a practicing artist, writer and educator in Melbourne and Adelaide since 2002. Exhibitions include a solo show at the Art Gallery of South Australia, the Hugo Michel Gallery and the Galway International Arts Festival.

The artist's interdisciplinary practice includes the transformative process of mixed media and montage to draw the viewer in to consider insidious subtexts such as disturbed ecologies and dispossession from colonial incursions.

Her working title for the Seychelles Biennale installation is 'Cloud Ships', a creation of fictional travel posters which will serve as a framework to imaginatively disrupt linear patterns of travel, history and time across the interrelated terrains of ocean, land and aero-space.

Through this work the artist will seek to reprise newly found archival memories from the past which intersect in ghostly ways with the present.



**KRISHNA LUCHOOMUN** b. 1962  
(Mauritius)

Krishna is a regular visitor to Seychelles where in the past he has run workshops for local artists, particularly with regards to installation and conceptual art.

He holds an MA in Fine Art and was one of the initiators of the pARTage series of events in Mauritius. He has mounted exhibitions and been 'in residence' in many countries. He works in a variety of media, including video, installation, photography, performance and painting.

The artist will be creating a new work on the island of Praslin for the Byenal. Working outside in the gardens of Les Laurier Eco Hotel, he will create a boat from clothing which, in the artist's opinion, serve as our second skin. In line with the Byenal theme the installation will explore lost identity and examine the construction of new identities. The work will question how we can 'transform the inability of comprehension, tolerance and empathy into understanding, sharing and humaneness'.

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**JEAN YVES L'ONFLE b. 1978  
(Mauritius)**

The artist participated in the 2017 edition of the Seychelles Biennale.

He intends to create an installation piece which addresses issues of women's dignity. Through the creation of approximately 20 sculptures the artist will encourage debate and reflection on issues around the oppression of women and social evils such as rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, reproductive coercion etc.

Jean Yves L'Onfle has exhibited constantly and widely in solo and group dynamics in Mauritius as well as in selected overseas exhibition.



**NEIL BELL AND OLA SIVHED  
(United Kingdom and Sweden)**

The artists have been creating a series of art installations using ice in order to raise awareness of the threats of global warming and climate change.

Their Seychelles installation will be placed outside the National Library building and will take the form of a changing principal sculptural form with accompanying sound and visual technology. It will be the most ambitious installation of its kind ever created in Seychelles.

The Seychelles work will form part of a global 'chain' of installations. The work responds to the Biennale theme through the concepts of 'lost' (our natural climate balance) and 'found' (our growing understanding of the problem).

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**BOB CLYATT**  
(United States of America)

Bob Clyatt's practice consistently inquires into the relationship between 'individual' and 'other'. This provokes lines of questioning entwined with such issues as power, agency, identity and the role of an artist in cultures and histories.

The artist will be showing a complex and delicate sculpture entitled 'Cscape 53' in the Eden Art Space Gallery.

This work is cast in super hard plaster and powdered Carrara marble, with an overload of contemporary cast objects being underwritten by a switch, 'a place to turn it all off, unplug, disconnect, perhaps to hide.'



**DANIEL PESTA** b. 1959  
(Czech Republic)

Daniel Pesta will be showing his videoart piece 'The Chain' at the Byenal Sesel. The artist has recently exhibited assemblage and video work at the Venice Biennale 2019 and has exhibited widely within and beyond the Czech Republic.

His installation will reference secret societies and their (at times) peculiar practices. The artist writes:

'In a deserted, bleak and gloomy factory hall an imaginary secret society sits around a wooden table. It is precisely at tables such as this that the fate of groups, individuals or nations is decided.'



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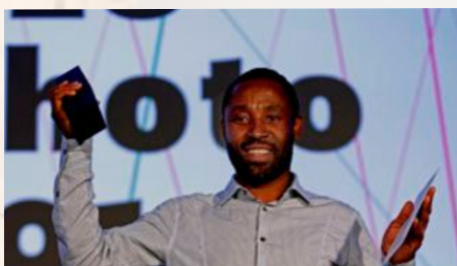


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**RENE RIETMEYER** b. 1957  
(The Netherlands)

Rene Rietmeyer concerns a 'personal confrontation with my own being in relation to my own surroundings' (which) 'teaches a lot about priorities in life. The communication with other people enables me to bring my thoughts more and more to the essence.' The artist will be exhibiting a series of his signature abstract works at the Kenwyn House Gallery, works which, in the words of Rene Rietmeyer, are 'nothing less than the proof of my existence.'



**MAURO PINTO** b.1974  
(Mozambique)

Mauro Pinto is a photographer whose recent work – including a series exhibited at the 2019 Venice Biennale – has examined concepts of human hardship, specifically through images of miners, which speak to our most empathic feelings. The artist will be showing a selection of new works in the Eden Art Space Gallery.

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**GABRIELE SCHNITZENBAUMER**  
**(Germany)**

GS is a German artist who creates sculpture and painting in Germany and Seychelles, where she spends a part of each year. Typically figurative surrealist and mythological paintings are created from an improvised ground to a variety of sizes on canvas and card. This work is most usually created in Seychelles.

The artist's three dimensional work is eclectic and features ceramic, carving, assemblage and metalwork.

Pieces often combine found objects with sculptural forms created by the artist's hand.

GS has a long history of major exhibitions in Germany and overseas and has had television documentaries and monographs created about her work. Her art can be found in many private and public collections.

lost  
FOUND

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